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SUMMARIZED MINUTES

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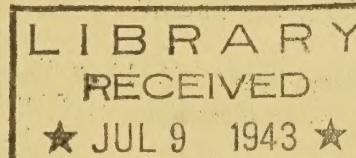
TWENTIETH VALLEY-STATES CORRELATING CONFERENCE

Piedmont Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia

Thursday, May 13, 1943

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

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June, 1943

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of the

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Piedmont Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia

Thursday, May 13, 1943

The 20th Valley-States Correlating Conference was called to order by Chairman Cooper at 9:00 a.m. Later in the forenoon, Dean Cooper called Director Drinkard of Virginia to the Chair for a time.

1. PERSONNEL OF THE CONFERENCE

A list of those present from the various member agencies is given below. Several members of the Conference were absent. Dean and Director Funchess, of Alabama, is ill, and was represented by Dr. N. J. Volk. Director Dorman of Mississippi, Dean Schaub of North Carolina, Director Mooers of Tennessee, and Director Hutcheson of Virginia, were absent because of other important duties in their States. Dean Schaub was represented by Asst. Director Goodman and Director Hutcheson was represented by Dr. T. B. Hutcheson. Dean Jacob of Tennessee had died on March 29. Of the four affiliated States, only Louisiana was represented.

Alabama: Director P. O. Davis, Extension Service, Auburn.
Dr. Norman J. Volk, Agronomy, representing Dean Funchess.

Arkansas: None present.

Florida: None present.

Georgia: Director Walter S. Brown, Extension Service, Athens.
Director H. P. Stuckey, Experiment Station, Experiment.
Kenneth Treanor, Extension Economist, Athens.

Kentucky: Dean and Director Thos. P. Cooper, College of Agriculture, Lexington.

Louisiana: Asst. Director J. G. Richard, Extension Service, University Station.
C. B. Roark, Asst. Farm Management Specialist, Extension Service, University Station.

Mississippi: Director L. I. Jones, Extension Service, State College.

No. Carolina: Asst. Director J. W. Goodman, Extension Service, Raleigh.
Director L. D. Baver, Experiment Station, Raleigh.

Tennessee: Dean & Director C. E. Brehm, Extension Service, Knoxville.
Asst. Director J. H. McLeod, Extension Service, Knoxville.

Virginia: Director A. W. Drinkard, Jr., Experiment Station, Blacksburg
Dr. T. B. Hutcheson, Agronomy, representing Director J. R.
Hutcheson, Extension Service.

Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville
Director J. C. McAmis, Dept. of Agricultural Relations.
Mr. E. H. White, Dept. of Agricultural Relations.
Mr. Neil Bass, Chief Conservation Engineer.

U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington

Mr. J. L. Boatman, Extension Service.
Dr. J. T. Jardine, Office of Experiment Stations.
Mr. C. A. Sheffield, Extension Service.
Dr. Carleton R. Ball, Executive Secretary, Correlating Committee.

2. ELECTION OF CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Cooper stated the election of a Chairman was in order.

Dean Brehm MOVED, and it was seconded, that Dean Cooper be re-elected Chairman of the Conference. Dean Brehm then put the motion from the floor and it was CARRIED unanimously.

3. REPORT OF CORRELATING COMMITTEE CONFERENCE WITH DR. BENNETT

At the 19th Valley-States Conference it was voted (Minutes, p. 7) that the Correlating Committee arrange a conference with Dr. Hugh H. Bennett, Chief of the Soil Conservation Service. This conference was to cover the problems involved in planning and conducting a single unified program of soil conservation as and when soil conservation districts are formed within the Tennessee Valley area. This conference was held in the office of Dr. Bennett in Washington on May 3. There were present the members of the Correlating Committee (Chairman Cooper, Mr. Bass (representing Director McAmis), and Mr. Boatman); Dr. Bennett, Chief, and Mr. J. Phil Campbell, Asst. Chief, of the Soil Conservation Service; and (by request) Dr. C. R. Ball, Executive Secretary of the Correlating Committee.

A report of the conference was read by Chairman Cooper and is reproduced here (in the form in which it was approved later by Dr. Bennett, Executive Secretary).

a. The Bennett Conference Report

Pursuant to the motion adopted at the last meeting of the Valley-States Correlating Conference, the Correlating Committee met with Dr. H. H. Bennett, Chief of the Soil Conservation Service, for the purpose of developing a cooperative program in the Tennessee Valley area with the Soil Conservation Service. Those in attendance, in addition to Dr. Bennett, were Mr. J. Phil Campbell, Assistant Chief of the Soil Conservation Service, Dean T. P. Cooper, Mr. J. L. Boatman, Mr. Neil Bass (representing Mr. J. C. McAmis), and Dr. Carleton R. Ball, Executive Secretary of the Committee.

Discussion brought out the fact that the State Advisory Committee for the soil conservation program, composed in most States of the Director of the State Agricultural Extension Service, the Director of the State Agricultural Experiment Station, and the State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service, have the authority to formulate a soil conservation program in a particular State, and to develop methods and procedures for carrying out the program. The conclusion of the Conference, therefore, was that this policy should be explained and emphasized at the next meeting of the Correlating Conference and the State representatives on the several advisory committees asked to participate in formulating programs in their respective States, in keeping with the tenets of the memorandum of understanding.

In the discussion, the Anderson Report to the Committee on Extension Organization and Policy was referred to as a suggested basis for defining desirable procedure. Dr. Bennett stressed the desirability of the full cooperation of all the agencies concerned with soil conservation in any area, and stated that cooperation stemmed from a desire to work together rather than from documents prescribing cooperation. He said that there was nothing in the law establishing the Soil Conservation Service (Public 46), or in the procedures, that would prevent the Soil Conservation Service from working with and through the State Agricultural Experiment Stations and Extension Services in the Tennessee Valley area, in exactly the same manner as prescribed in the memorandum of understanding by which the Tennessee Valley Authority should and does carry out its program. It is necessary only that the State Advisory Committees adopt measures to that end.

Your Committee, therefore, submits this report with the recommendation that the State Advisory Committees in the several Valley States immediately meet for the purpose of considering a soil conservation program in each State, and for the adoption of methods and procedures in accordance with those prescribed in the joint memorandum of understanding.

Washington, D. C.
May 3, 1943.

b. TVA Representation on State Advisory Committees

MOVED by Dean Brehm that the Correlating Committee recommend to the Secretary of Agriculture that a representative of the TVA be added to each State Advisory Committee on Soil Conservation in the seven Valley States. Seconded by Director Baver.

Discussion followed, in which it was pointed out that in most of the Valley States the Tennessee River watershed occupied only a small part of the total State area and that TVA representatives would not wish to be obligated to attend meetings of the Committee devoted to discussion of problems in other parts of the State. Others emphasized the difference between the State Advisory Committee and the State Board.

Mr. Boatman expressed the opinion that the Secretary of Agriculture would have no legal right to add representatives of the TVA to the State Advisory Committees on Soil Conservation. Finally, Dr. Baver withdrew his second to Dean Brehm's motion.

Dean Brehm then OFFERED A SUBSTITUTE MOTION that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority be informed of the desire of the Valley-States Conference that representatives of the TVA be added to the State Advisory Committees on Soil Conservation and asked to convey this information to the Secretary of Agriculture and request him to make such appointments. Seconded by Director Brown and CARRIED.

c. Discussion of Bennett Conference Report

Dean Cooper stated that the Conference was unique in the degree of harmony expressed. He felt that the members of the Valley-States Conference should reach an understanding among themselves and then make it effective in all States. Should the SCS be asked to work in the Tennessee Valley area in the same way as the TVA does?

Dr. Baver pointed out that Dr. Bennett does not have a full knowledge of his organization and is not aware that his subordinates do not follow his agreements. Some of them use political pressures. It was observed, however, that no organization can insure that all its members will follow an approved plan.

Dean Brehm pointed out that, for the duration, we must revise our conservation activities in order to achieve food production goals. Some grassland must be plowed and some soils depleted of fertility. These must be restored after the war. Farmers now are too busy to attend meetings and plan conservation. SCS men are busy also but many of them do not realize that the programs of the soil conservation districts cannot go on as usual.

Mr. Bass, in answer to a question, agreed that Dr. Bennett had said that the State Advisory Committees should write the State soil conservation programs and he would accept them. He was impressed with Dr. Bennett's sincerity and felt that the Committees should go ahead.

Director Brown agreed with Dr. Baver that such agreements do not take care of all the cases that arise, but felt that the proposed plan should be tried.

Mr. Boatman stated that the Extension Service had tried to have SCS funds allotted directly to Extension for education in soil conservation. Dr. Bennett has been willing, but the Bureau of the Budget has not been agreeable to such an arrangement. He has allowed the employment of at least one man per State, responsible to the Director of Extension, to do educational work in soil conservation.

Director McAmis observed that there was a difference between an allotment and an agreement to reimburse an agency for a service rendered.

Mr. Boatman stated that a study of the hearings on the Smith-Lever Bill showed that the Department of Agriculture had become a great research organization with inadequate machinery for getting accumulated information out to the people. Several Bureaus were asking Congress for funds to extend the knowledge possessed by the individual Bureaus. Congress felt it wiser to set up an Extension agency to serve all Bureaus. The several States already had developed their Agricultural Experiment Stations. The Federal Extension Service feels that it is responsible for all Departmental programs of agricultural education. There now is a Federal expenditure of approximately 18.5 millions of dollars, annually.

Director Davis referred to the resolution passed by the Land-Grant College Association in 1941, and the charter for the Extension Service issued by the Secretary of Agriculture in 1942. He then asked if the States are to be a funnel only, for Department material, or are to be both a strainer and a funnel. The real basis for the Extension program, he asserted, is the State College.

Dean Cooper, in response to a query by Director Brown, said that it was not expected that Dr. Bennett would send the report of the Correlating Committee's Conference to SCS field personnel. Dean Cooper felt that the Committee should have given Dr. Bennett an opportunity to read and approve or revise the report.

Dean Brehm observed that the planning of a program is one thing and the mechanics of its operation quite another thing. Mr. Boatman remarked that persons, not memorandums, really govern cooperations.

Mr. Boatman then read the following statement from the report (pp. 18-19) of the Secretary's Committee, on the Soil Conservation Service, in 1935, on the manner in which soil conservation programs should be prepared and carried out.

"The major part of the work of both the Soil Conservation Service and the Extension Service is in the field, and the establishment of satisfactory relationships between State Extension Services and the Soil Conservation Service is especially important."

"We recommend:

"(1) That there be set up in each State a Soil Conservation Advisory Committee to assist in formulating programs for all soil conservation work in the State, in coordinating the various agencies concerned with soil conservation, in locating demonstration and other projects, in encouraging the formation by farmers of soil conservation associations, and in otherwise contributing to a unified plan of action.

"(2) That the State Soil Conservation Advisory Committee consist of the State Coordinator of the Soil Conservation Service, the Director of the State Agricultural Experiment Station, the State Director of Extension, and representatives of such additional State agencies as may be designated in each State by the Secretary of Agriculture because of their interest and responsibility in the development and carrying out of a soil conservation program; these latter agencies may include the State Planning Board or Conservation Commission and the State Department of Forestry. Such Committees have been set up in several States, and are functioning satisfactorily.

"Under the general memorandum of agreement on Extension work, signed in 1914 by the Secretary of Agriculture and by the Presidents of the several State Agricultural Colleges, the Department agrees that all Extension work in the State shall be done through, or in cooperation with, the State Extension Service."

Dean Cooper observed that the quoted procedures differed a little from the statements in the report of the Bennett conference. Mr. Boatman agreed. Dean Cooper said that he assumed that if a State Advisory Committee formulated and approved a program, the matter was settled.

Mr. Boatman said that any disagreements by members of the SCS operating staff should have been reported to Dr. Bennett.

Referring again to the suggested allotment of SCS funds to Extension agencies, he stated that in the past ten years the Congress repeatedly has specified the purposes for which moneys could be spent. Most Extension men work at many different tasks, only part of which might properly be strictly charged to soil conservation.

Jr. Jardine felt that the Soil Conservation Act should be read carefully by members of the Conference, as it contains some innovations. The title of the Act is misleading as it is as broad as all agriculture, while the text of the Act is restricted. As Chairman of the subcommittee which outlined procedures for research in soil conservation back in 1935, he had been familiar with the problems. The programs usually worked well but occasionally someone made arbitrary changes. It would be well if Dr. Bennett could assign his men to State Extension Services for specific work.

Dr. Baver felt that the outlined procedures should be given a trial but he does not subscribe to the statement that failure would always be the fault of the State Advisory Committee. He suggested that we all go home and get the program going.

Director McAmis expressed doubt if the work done by SCS within the Valley area had followed the plan outlined.

Mr. Boatman felt that we should make use of the outlined procedures and stated that he was sure that Dr. Bennett would be glad to help in settling any problems which arose.

Dean Brehm: Under war conditions, the States must have a definite program for food and feed production. The soil conservation program is definitely related to it. The problem is to get this relationship clarified. We must maintain soil resources, as far as possible, but subordinate this to the need for food production. The SCS men do not all realize this.

Director McAmis: The adjustment of this and similar matters should rest upon the objectives to be obtained, policies and procedures adopted, and the resources which are available for use.

As I understand the central objective of the regional program in the Tennessee Valley, it is to develop and preserve for the individual citizen his full freedom in the use of his initiative, talents, and resources in fulfilling his obligation to his community, State, and Nation. To do so, it is necessary not only that he approve, but that he directly participate in and be responsible for the formulation and conduct of local programs affecting his freedom of action. His views must be respected in the selection of technical and administrative leadership employed to aid him in carrying out his participation in programs thus evolved.

If individual citizens and communities are to maintain this status of freedom, they must preserve and develop their private and collective exhaustible natural resources. As the necessary resources of rural regions are exploited and depleted, individual citizens and communities trade their independence and freedom for the grants with which to provide the necessities of family and community life. Public agencies to whom they go for relief take from them the responsibilities of local planning and administration. The people gradually lose their initiative, freedom, and competence. The development and maintenance of essential exhaustible natural resources are means to an end and not the end itself.

As the purpose of the development of resources is to provide the individual citizens and communities with the opportunity of truly democratic citizenship, then the procedure by which it is to be obtained is prescribed. With an objective so comprehensive, all the factors must be dealt with as a whole rather than by piecemeal. While the entire Tennessee Valley may be considered a soil conservation district, it is much more than that and it must be considered in its entirety. There is need and room for all public agencies which have a contribution to make. They must place themselves at the disposal of agencies close to and most responsive to the will of the people, whose job it is to formulate and execute the work to be done.

It is now the established policy of the Federal Government to pool its resources in the Tennessee Valley with those of established State and local agencies and institutions, so that the maximum use can be made of the facilities closest at hand and most necessary for the purpose. What are these resources?

For more than 100 years, the Federal Government has maintained an interest in the education of the common man through the Land-Grant College system, including research, teaching, and extension. These are essential instruments for the attainment of the objectives of the regional program. The Land-Grant Colleges are responsive and responsible to local people rather than to the Federal Government.

The Federal Government owns a vast system of dams, reservoirs, and power facilities, and it owns and operates a plant at Muscle Shoals, the products of which are essential for munitions and for food production in time of war, and for the maintenance and improvement of human and natural resources in time of peace. Farmers own, for the most part, the watershed of the river. Due to heavy rainfall, strong relief of the landscape, and moderate temperatures, water is a most potent and dynamic resource. These facilities and conditions are ideal for the significant experimental undertaking in which we are engaged. Nowhere else in the country does this combination of public and private resources exist. Nowhere else is there such an opportunity for attainment of the objective stated. This regional undertaking, therefore, is unique with respect to objectives, policy, procedure, and the tools available for doing the job.

We have a memorandum of understanding designed to guide all participating agencies in making the maximum contribution to the regional undertaking. It has been modified and revised in harmony with progressive national and regional policy. The central objective, and the procedure by which it is to be attained, has not been altered.

If the results of the experiment are to be achieved, all agencies with a contribution to make should adjust their objectives, participation, policies, and procedures to those of the regional undertaking. In this undertaking, it was mutually agreed by all agencies concerned that programs of research, teaching, and extension in agriculture should be conducted by and through the Land-Grant Colleges, irrespective of how such programs are carried on outside of this area. It only remained to decide how this could be done within the framework of the public acts authorizing such programs.

As I indicated at our last conference, with respect to TVA's participation, a way has been found to do this which is satisfactory to the institutions, to the Authority, and to the Department of Agriculture. This method is in harmony with the general pattern of relationships which existed in the beginning between the Colleges and the Department.

I repeat, TVA has not opposed the formation of soil conservation districts, or the participation of SCS. It has endorsed the consensus of the Valley-States Conference that the SCS has a contribution to make and should find a way to make it in harmony with the memorandum of understanding and the original policy of the Department, as has the TVA. So far as the TVA is concerned, there is no desire that the SCS restrict its activities to territory outside of the Valley, simply because the work there is ample to occupy its full time and efforts. On the contrary, the Authority recognizes the obligation of SCS to serve all the farmers of the country, including those in the Tennessee Valley. The Authority would welcome its contribution in the Valley, providing its activities are aimed at the central objective and in accord with the regional concept. We do not believe it possible for personnel employed by TVA, SCS, or any other branch of government to deal directly with farmers or farm organizations on matters relating to agriculture, without serious handicap to the regional concept of a unified program as set forth in the TVA Act and under the policies of the memorandum of understanding.

Dean Cooper: Your point is that this TVA program is authorized by the Congress and is carried cooperatively by Valley agencies. Here, Chairman Cooper asked Dr. Drinkard to take the Chair.

Director Davis: I think that Mr. McAmis is very sound in his viewpoint, and I have said many times that I wish all agencies would take the attitude that the TVA has taken on the agricultural programs. It creates an exceedingly difficult problem when we have cross-currents and conflicts in government programs. Too much of our time is spent in operating government machinery and too little in getting our job done.

Director McAmis: If there had been no Land-Grant Colleges in the Tennessee Valley, it would have been the obligation of the Federal agencies to promote the establishment of Experiment Stations, Extension Services, etc.

Director Brehm: The SCS has large appropriations from Congress. The technicians of SCS do technical work in the field, but also want to do promotion or Extension education for SCS. He worries the County Agent to get him to call meetings and let him talk about the SCS program. Many of those technicians do not want to do the technical work in the field, but promotional work at meetings.

MOVED by Dean Brehm that the Committee report on the Conference with Dr. Bennett be approved. Seconded and CARRIED.

4. DEAN BREHM'S LETTER OF INQUIRY ABOUT PROCEDURES

Chairman Cooper, at this point, read a letter from Director Brehm, under date of May 4, inquiring as to policies and procedures in connection with the activities of the SCS in soil conservation districts within the Tennessee Valley area. The letter follows:

Knoxville, Tennessee
May 4, 1943

Dean Thomas P. Cooper, Chairman
Coordinating Committee
Tennessee Valley Land-Grant Institutions
Lexington, Kentucky

Dear Dean Cooper:

There has been discussed at previous meetings of the Land-Grant Colleges in the Valley States, and representatives of the TVA, the policy of soil conservation districts being set up in Tennessee Valley area, where there is under way the Unit Demonstration Farm Program.

As you know, two districts have been in operation in Northern Alabama and this has brought about certain complications. It is the desire of the College of Agriculture, of the University of Tennessee, not to carry on any program or enter into any agreement with other agencies not in accord with the policy as determined by the Coordinating Committee and also the Institutions cooperating with the Tennessee Valley Authority in the TVA area.

As you well know, we appreciate the cooperation we have had with the TVA, and feel this is one of the finest cooperative relationships that the University of Tennessee College of Agriculture has; however, this question of Soil Conservation Service setting up districts in Valley areas continues to bob up.

I am writing you, therefore, requesting that the Coordinating Committee consider this matter and outline to me the policy of the College of Agriculture with the Soil Conservation Service in the establishment of soil conservation districts, in Valley areas, and the procedure to be followed in setting up these districts, or coordinating soil conservation district programs with the cooperative program between the Colleges in the Valley States and the Tennessee Valley Authority, or soil conservation programs and other activities related thereto.

Yours very truly,

/s/ C. E. Brehm

C. E. Brehm
Dean and Director

CEB/mr
cc - J. L. Boatman
J. C. McAmis
J. H. McLeod

Mr. Boatman: I don't think the Correlating Committee has anything to do with the organizing of soil conservation districts, which are set up under State law. It seems to me that where the Correlating Committee functions is when States bring in matters of a regional character where regional integration is needed. There are some things that have to be done on a State level, and I question whether the Correlating Committee has any call to act in the case of soil conservation districts.

Dean Brehm noted that his questions largely had been answered by the previous discussion. He then asked Director McAmis what he thought of the matter.

Director McAmis: I don't know enough about what the SCS proposes to do. I know in general what has been done in North Alabama. They are putting in technicians in the counties and these are giving individual farmers technical advice on soil erosion. That seems to be a purely educational Extension matter. There might have been something else in it in the beginning. I wonder if we are going to adopt a different policy from that which we have understood. It is a State matter and I think it would be well for the States to agree on what to do. I would like to have the States express themselves on it.

Dean Cooper: I can say for Kentucky that, in the event that the Advisory Committee approves it, I expect the work will be carried on in the Valley area in accordance with the agreements set up with the TVA.

Director Drinkard: There are no SCS districts in the Southwest Virginia counties now. I agree, however, that if they should come in, their activities ought to be in line with the organized programs in the Valley.

Director Brown: In Georgia there is so much land outside the Valley for the SCS to work on, and we have such a good program going on in the Valley, that we thought it would be practical for the SCS to spend its time and energy outside the Valley. We would like it very much if the procedure with other agencies were patterned after that with the TVA. Director Stuckey agreed that the work of the SCS outside the Valley had been satisfactory.

Director Davis stated that those districts are organized under State law and are empowered to do certain things. Secretary Wallace issued a directive letting SCS do technical education and Extension do practical education. There is no way of being sure which is which.

Director Goodman MOVED that no new soil conservation districts be formed within the Valley area until the new plan of cooperation has been well tried in districts outside.

Director Davis doubted if such a motion were constitutional.

Director Brehm stated that the unit-farm test-demonstration program is voluntary, whereas the district program has some degree of compulsion. Test-demonstrations have more supervision and produce more results. Each one tries to get 500 or 1,000 other surrounding farms to do likewise. Assistant Director McLeod wondered how SCS could be fitted into a community organization and program.

Director Davis stated that the SCS had worked very closely with the Alabama College, but historically it had been established as a work-relief agency, just as NYA. If the SCS had put its men on our team, all would have been well.

Director Drinkard stated that the SCS law is national in scope but, if the TVA is doing a good job in its area, it is not logical to bring in another agency to duplicate its work.

Mr. Boatman observed that the work of SCS should supplement, not duplicate. To this Director Bauer expressed agreement and Dean Brehm stated that the State Advisory Committee should insure that it did supplement.

Director McAmis: I would like to know what the position of the States is going to be. Are they going to try to make it uniform or are they going to act separately on this, which I consider to be an important matter of regional policy? I am not suggesting that the SCS keep out at all, but that they work within this memorandum. If they can't, they should say so. I think it is up to this group to develop procedure.

I think it would be a good thing to adopt a uniform position on the matter. It is a regional question of regional policy and very important.

In answer to a question, Director McAmis stated that the TVA has scrupulously avoided any influence on areas outside the Tennessee Valley. The pattern of use of those test-demonstration farms outside the Valley is entirely different from that within the Valley, and we are treating them very differently. Right now we are talking about those inside the Valley.

Dr. Bauer MOVED that it be the consensus of the group that, if and when SCS districts come into the Tennessee Valley where they do not now occur, they supplement rather than duplicate or be superimposed upon the existing programs, and that their programs be subject to the approval of the State Advisory Committee. (No action taken.)

The Conference then adjourned for lunch at 1 p.m.

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The Conference reconvened at 2 p.m. with Chairman Cooper presiding

5. STATE SUMMARIES OF FERTILIZER RESULTS AS RELATED TO THE PROGRAM FOR FOOD AND FEED PRODUCTION

Director McAmis: I would like to have for our Board of Directors a joint statement of the work up to this time, as it relates to food and feed production and critical limiting factors, such as labor, machinery, supplies, and transportation. If we had a clear statement of results up to this time it might be useful in developing a program. This kind of summary has not been made. We do know about the increases in production

but it seems to me that it would be helpful if, State by State, we could focus our thought on the bottlenecks or important factors of production. It might be well for Dr. Ball to take these results and get them in shape.

Discussion developed the fact that four of these summary reports already were in hand. They comprised Alabama extension results, Kentucky extension and research results, Tennessee extension results, and Virginia research results.

Director McLeod later presented and explained some charts showing results from 94 Tennessee test-demonstration farms in terms of food and food production.

Dean Cooper: The data show large increases in production from the use of lime and phosphate and it should be made possible for farmers to get what is needed for production. We should make all possible effort for increased food production.

Dean Brehm noted that the lend-lease program is getting phosphorus that we need for food production. (In England this lend-lease phosphorus enables large increases in home production of food, which saves shipping space and American food. Exec. Sec'y.)

6. PROPOSED 2ND AGRONOMY-ANIMAL INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

Chairman Bauer of the Agronomy-Animal Industry Committee reported that he had corresponded with Committee members and other State representatives as to the advisability and possibility of holding a second conference of agronomists and animal industry workers. (For data on the first conference see Minutes of 19th Valley-States Conference, pp. 7-8, and its Appendix C, pp. 21-34. Exec. Sec'y.)

Dr. Bauer stated the representatives were divided rather evenly for and against an attempt to hold a meeting under present conditions of work pressures and travel restrictions. Dr. Bauer then suggested that it might still be possible to arrange for a meeting in the mountains in late June or in July. Such a meeting could combine study and discussion of pastures with vacations for members. No decision was reached by the Conference.

7. STATUS OF TVA NITROGEN FERTILIZER

Mr. Bass: I am sure that parts of this nitrogen story are already familiar to you, but I will sketch it chronologically and fill in gaps with which you may not be familiar. As a mandate of Congress, we have a plant at Muscle Shoals to make nitrogen. The plant has been in production for war use for some months, at its capacity of 300 tons of ammonium nitrate a day. Recently we were advised by the WPB that they would not need all of the nitrogen for munitions and, therefore, they would like

for us to manufacture ammonium nitrate, or other nitrogen fertilizer, and make it available for farmers. About one-third of the capacity of the plant would continue to be used for explosives and two-thirds would be available for farm nitrogen. On April 30, 1943, the Ordnance Department said that they were not ready to take their one-third, and that, therefore, virtually all production for May and June would be available to us for farm use.

We arranged a conference at Muscle Shoals to which some members of the staff of your colleges came, and also representatives of cooperatives. Several conclusions were reached. Ammonium nitrate itself would be acceptable for use as fertilizer. A portion should go into test-demonstration farms, or about 6,000 tons for May and June. Cooperatives subscribed for the total remaining tonnage, or about 9,000 tons. Our consideration is devoted to getting the May and June production out, because it would have an effect on this season's crops.

The WPB regulation is that all nitrogen products should be sold through existing commercial channels, on a pro rata basis. This regulation would prevent TVA from using the ammonium nitrate for test-demonstrations and from selling direct to cooperatives. We asked WPB to waive this regulation in TVA's case. We felt also that the TVA production would be over and above that amount available to commercial outlets. WPB declined to permit us to sell the ammonium nitrate to cooperatives, but said they would favorably consider releasing 6,000 tons for test-demonstrations in May and June. We then appealed to the Food Production Administration of the USDA, as we could start making and shipping the material this week, and begin distribution to cooperatives. We pointed out that the effect of this order (to distribute through commercial channels) would be to set aside the TVA Act. On the question of test-demonstration material, we do not have formal approval to proceed, but we are expecting it daily.

Ammonium nitrate can be used in the same form as the explosive, but we are assured that it is not dangerous to handle. It can be treated in various ways to prevent caking. The most common way is to mix it with finely-ground limestone. A similar commercial product is known as cal-nitro. The Authority is ready to start producing and distributing immediately. If we are required to work out a contract with the industry and distribute the product in that way, it certainly will cause a lot of delay in getting the material out.

One suggestion made was that some of the cooperatives also had allotments as fertilizer manufacturers, and that WPB would direct them to get the entire amount of their nitrogen allotment from TVA as ammonium nitrate, which would be very unfair to them, as the material still is experimental. The total amount estimated as needed for agricultural requirements for the fiscal year 1943-44 was stated to be 615,000 tons of NH_3 , of which from 175,000 to 200,000 tons would be ammonium nitrate. We would like some guidance as to how much will be needed after May and June for the test-demonstration program. The War Department has estimated that we can have about 6,000 tons of ammonium nitrate a month for agriculture after May and June.

For many months we have been thinking in terms of research on nitrogen fertilizer, but we had been told that nitrogen was scarce and that material was not available for experimentation.

The regulations of the Food Production Administration would make it necessary to use it on essential crops, except that that allotted to test-demonstrations would be used under the guidance of the colleges, with food production in mind.

Director McAmis: We try to use this insofar as possible to gain the same objectives you are using your phosphate for, for immediate results. However, if that does conflict with the national program, I think you should make every effort to make it conform to the national program. I don't see why there should be any direct conflict, but it is not my understanding that this 6,000 tons would be subject to the classification of crops under which nitrogen goes.

It seems to me that you can gain the objectives of your test-demonstration program if you can utilize the nitrogen on farms which have good moisture conditions, and are not subject to erosion to any appreciable extent, and thus maximize production on those farms, while still keeping your legume pastures and grasses, etc. There is another way to use this nitrogen - that is, to stimulate the growth of row crops on land where they should not have been in the first place. If we do adopt the former course, in the long pull the nitrogen program will aid your phosphate and lime program. There is no conflict between them.

There is a freight rate on ammonium nitrate which is two to four times that on ordinary fertilizer. Cal-nitro does go under the freight rate of fertilizer. We are advised that the introduction of 60 pounds of limestone into a ton of ammonium nitrate would reduce the point of concentration from 35 to 33. By doing that, it seems that we would be fairly safe in shipping this as fertilizer. It will be shipped in moisture-proof bags.

There is one question which may seem unimportant, but it may be very important: a person affected with syphilis may be very seriously hurt by handling this ammonium nitrate. That is something we will have to look into.

We are sending copies of these telegrams to Tapp and FPA, and copies of their replies, to the cooperatives and to you so that you will be personally familiar with that side of it. It is the only way I know of to explain the situation perfectly. The cooperatives (about 85 percent of the cooperatives in that territory were represented at the meeting at the Shoals) passed a resolution that their representative and one from the colleges and from TVA get in touch with Mr. Davis and WPB and try to work this matter out. This has not been done yet. The wire we sent to Tapp does not prevent them or anyone else from making representations to Mr. Davis' office or WPB with respect to modification of the stand that they are taking. We had to accept their decision, of course, which means that the industry for a time is taking over the production of

the plant. It may easily extend to the phosphate side of it and it may well become a precedent for action after the war. I cannot foresee, but these regulations may continue for some time after the war. They might prevent the best use of these facilities for the objectives which I tried to present this morning. Therefore, we look upon it as a pretty serious situation, so far as the Valley is concerned.

This is coming at a time of year when the material cannot be mixed, but must go direct to the farmers as ammonium nitrate. We would hope to have the products of that plant always used directly on the land rather than in mixtures.

There is a lot of other ammonium nitrate in this country of the same kind and capacity for crop production, but how much I don't know. We are using this as a method of its introduction to the farmer, both the test-demonstrators and others. In order to do that it should remain unmixed.

Mr. Bass: The production of our plant will be roughly 15 percent of the total production of ammonium nitrate in the country.

Director McAmis: The action of WPB nullifies national policy already set up by the TVA Act. The material should be sold as nitrogen material. In the case of liquid ammonia, we would like to see that used directly.

Mr. Bass: There is another and rather vital fertilizer issue at stake here. You will recall that when TVA started out on its fertilizer program, we asked this group of agricultural colleges what kind of fertilizer we should make, and on your advice it was decided then that we should make concentrated phosphates. One of the objectives was to bring about a revision of the low-analysis, mixed-fertilizer system as fostered by the fertilizer industry. Should we now turn our fertilizer over to the industry for distribution permanently, or just for the duration of the war, in accordance with the WPB directive, it undoubtedly will retard progress toward a better fertilizer system. We have been trying to set up a new system in the interest of the farmer. But to take our products and put them in the old system defeats what we have been trying to do. It would set back for an indefinite period the program sponsored by your institution.

Director McAmis: This is a new material, relatively untried. The cooperatives decided that they would not be concerned over losing a few cents on this. They are in it to render a service to the farmers that no one else is in a position to render. They are not in it for a profit. Therefore, they are the ones to get it to the farmers rather than the industry.

Dean Cooper agreed with the general statements made and that the WPB requirement is against the best interests of farmers and in favor of someone else. He felt that use in test-demonstrations and distribution through cooperatives is in accord with our policy and in the interest of farmers.

Director Baver stated that if the material was sold to the cooperatives and dealers alike, the cooperatives would be able to fix the price. He felt that the only stand to take was that the material should be used as nitrogen and that if it is sold to dealers they should sell it as ammonium nitrate.

Messrs. McLeod and Roark agreed and pointed out that when the dealer puts it in a mixture, its TVA identity is lost.

Asst. Director Richard inquired if we could send letters or telegrams to the WPB Administrator.

Mr. Bass replied that they should be sent to Chester Davis of War Food Administration, or to Dr. Walter G. Whitman, Chief of the Chemical Branch of the WPB. He pointed out that TVA produced 10 percent of the nitrogen, or one-third of the ammonium nitrate manufactured in the United States.

Dean Cooper pointed out that the TVA telegrams condense the statements. He felt that farmers were unfamiliar with the product and needed the help of cooperative associations in using it properly, especially if it is to influence production in 1943 when applied so late in the season.

Dean Brehm pointed out the acute shortage of nitrogen this year, when potato growers were allotted only one-half the normal quantity.

Dr. Baver MOVED that the ammonia from the Muscle Shoals plant be distributed to the farmers as ammonium nitrate rather than mixed with other materials. Seconded by Director Davis and CARRIED unanimously.

Director McAmis: Do you want any direction at all from us about using the nitrogen in your programs, or is everything clear?

8. PRODUCTION OF DICALCIUM PHOSPHATE FOR FEEDING

Director McAmis: With probably \$15,000 of money for extra equipment, we could easily produce pure dicalcium phosphate. The mixed feeds of the country are low in minerals, as well as in protein, so we had agreed tentatively with GLF, which was representing the other major cooperatives, that we would produce as much as 12,000 tons in the emergency for them, and we were reserving for this use some of that material which otherwise could be used on test-demonstration farms. Of course, in the long run, it might be better to improve the feed by treatment of the soil but, in the emergency, we are willing to do what we can to help. Again the WPB stopped us on the grounds that there would be enough mineral supplements with the reinstatement of the South American supply. This is a promise not yet fulfilled. They said that phosphorus was too short even to permit our manufacturing 15,000 tons of dicalcium phosphate. Triple superphosphate now has a very high priority rating on ships across the water. This all comes in the face of the statements last fall that there would be plenty of phosphate.

The authorization for the Mobile phosphate plant was given by the Congress, all arrangements have been made, and we are all ready to start construction, except that WPB will grant no priority for material to build. How much would the Mobile plant increase the farmers' efficiency of production?

Dean Brehm: Unless some plan is made for distribution of proteins and carbohydrates, the situation in 1943-44 will be worse than that relating to fertilizers. Tennessee will send a protest to the Federal Administration soon.

Dean Cooper observed that several States had done so.

Mr. Roark cited the case of potato growers.

Mr. Boatman: The colleges are in the best position to assemble the facts and present them to Washington.

9. SITUATION REGARDING FUSED ROCK PHOSPHATE

Mr. Bass: WPB has indicated a willingness to okay a plant; or several plants, for the manufacture of fused rock phosphate. This contains 27% of P_2O_5 and less than 0.3% fluorine. We hope to have one plant in production in about six or eight months.

10. PLACE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

MOVED by Director Davis that the 21st semi-annual Valley-States Correlating Conference be held at the Andrew Johnson Hotel in Knoxville, Tennessee, on Tuesday, October 5, 1943. Seconded and CARRIED.

(Without motion the Conference then adjourned.)

Respectfully submitted,

Carlton R Ball
Carlton R. Ball
Secretary

VALLEY-STATES CONFERENCES

of

LAND-GRANT COLLEGE DEANS AND DIRECTORS,
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY OFFICIALS, and
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REPRESENTATIVES

| <u>No.</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Place</u> | <u>Minutes</u> |
|------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | 1933, | ? | None |
| 2. | 1933, October 7 | Knoxville, Tennessee | Typed, 1 p. Funchess letter, 1 p. |
| 3. | 1934, July 6-7 | Chattanooga, Tennessee | Typed, 5 pp. |
| 4. | 1934, October 27 | Muscle Shoals, Alabama | Mimeographed, 13 pp. |
| 5. | 1935, December 12 | Chattanooga, Tennessee | Typed, 15 pp. |
| 6. | 1936, June 26-27 | Chattanooga, Tennessee | Mimeographed, 20 pp. |
| 7. | 1937, February 6 | Knoxville, Tennessee | Typed, 5 pp. |
| 8. | 1937, July 10 | Knoxville, Tennessee | Typed, 10 pp. |
| 9. | 1937, November 3 | Knoxville, Tennessee | Typed, 5 pp. |
| 10. | 1938, April 25 | Knoxville, Tennessee | Typed, 12 pp. |
| 11. | 1938, October 4 | Atlanta, Georgia | Typed, 10 pp. |
| 12. | 1939, April 4 | Birmingham, Alabama | Typed, 9 pp. |
| 13. | 1939, October 2 | Chattanooga, Tennessee | Typed, 9 pp. |
| 14. | 1940, April 2 | Knoxville, Tennessee | Mimeographed, 18 pp. |
| 15. | 1940, October 1 | Asheville, North Carolina | Typod, 9 pp. |
| 16. | 1941, March 4-5 | Florence, Alabama | Mimeographed, 32 pp. |
| 17. | 1941, October 28 | Atlanta, Georgia | Mimeographed, 29 pp. |
| 18. | 1942, March 3 | Roanoke, Virginia | Mimeographed, 22 pp. |
| 19. | 1942, October 6 | Knoxville, Tennessee | Mimeographed, 44 pp. |
| 20. | 1943, May 13 | Atlanta, Georgia | Mimeographed, 20 pp. |